

DISPOSAL OF FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES

Under Article 23 of the Peace Treaty with Italy the final disposal of the former Italian colonies, to which Italy renounced all right and title, is to be determined jointly by the Governments of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France within one year of the coming into force of the Peace Treaty, which took place on September 15, 1947. The Four Powers stated, in a declaration published as Annex XI of the treaty, that if they failed to agree on the disposal of any of the former Italian colonies within the allotted twelve-month period the matter would be referred to the General Assembly of the United Nations for a recommendation. They undertook to accept the Assembly's recommendation and to take appropriate measures for giving effect to it.

The Four Powers also agreed that in trying to reach a decision themselves on the disposal of the former Italian colonies they would take into consideration the views of other interested governments. Because of the time limit imposed on the deliberations of the Four Powers, Pakistan and the sixteen Governments which had signed the Peace Treaty with Italy, were invited to present general statements of their views not later than June 9. They were accorded the right, however, to submit supplementary statements at any time up to August 7, after they had had an opportunity to examine the reports of the Four-Power Commission of Investigation.

VIEWS OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

The following is the text of the general statement of the views of the Canadian Government submitted on June 7, 1948:

"It is the understanding of the Canadian Government that until the African territories formerly administered as Ital-

ian Colonies are placed under Trusteeship or until they achieve independence or are incorporated in the territory of an independent State or States, they fall within the scope of Chapter XI of the United Nations Charter. This means that, in considering the disposition to be made of Eritrea, Somalia and Libya, the interests of the inhabitants should be recognized as paramount, according to the principle enunciated in Article 73 of the Charter, and that arrangements to ensure the future political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples concerned should be based on the ascertained condition of each territory and the needs and the wishes of its inhabitants.

"The Canadian Government has therefore been gratified to learn that it is the intention of the Deputies to send to interested Governments copies of the reports of the Four-Power Commission of Investigation as soon as these are available and that interested Governments will be accorded the right, after examining the reports, to present supplementary views to the Council of Deputies, either in writing or orally. Thus the contribution made by all interested Governments to the ultimate decision of the Council of Foreign Ministers may be based on a knowledge of the facts, without which it would be difficult to reach conclusions serving the best interests of the populations concerned.

"Should the reports of the Commission of Investigation indicate that any of the territories formerly administered as Italian Colonies are not ready for independence, or that the majority of the inhabitants do not desire incorporation in a neighbouring territory or in neighbouring independent State or States, the Canadian Government will support the application to these territories of the In-

ternational Trusteeship system under Chapter XII of the Charter. In the selection of administering authorities the Canadian Government will support the appointment of those best qualified to achieve the basic objectives of the Trusteeship system as set forth in Article 76, i.e.,

- a) To further international peace and security;
- b) To promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants and their progressive development towards self-government or independence;
- c) To encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and
- d) To ensure equal treatment for all members of the United Nations and their nationals, and equal treatment for the latter in the administration of justice."

The Canadian Government received at intervals during July the three reports of the Four-Power Commission of Investigation. The text of a press release of August 9 on the supplementary statement of the Canadian Government, dated August 7, 1948, follows:

TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE

In common with other signatories of the Peace Treaty with Italy, Canada was invited on May 13, 1948, by the Secretary-General of the Deputies of the Council of Foreign Ministers to submit early in June its views on the disposal of the former Italian colonies. The invitation indicated that the Canadian Government, like other interested Governments, would enjoy the right to present supplementary views after it had had an opportunity to study the reports of the Four-Power Commission of Investigation which toured Eritrea, Italian Somaliland and Libya during the winter and spring. Canada's first statement, discussing the principles which should govern the disposal of